Remarks

The Examiner objected to drawing figure 6, stating that reference #28 was pointing to the wrong part. Applicant believes reference #28 is pointing to the correct part. Three line segments on the firing element, reference #28, may have suggested the presence of an additional part when these line segments actually represent a contour on said firing element. Applicant proposes removing three line segments from figure 6 in order to clarify the issue. A copy of figure 6 with the three line segments in question overstruck in blue ink is included for review. If acceptable to the Examiner, Applicant will eliminate these three line segments from figure 6 as well as analogous line segments in figures 2, 3, 4, and 5. Applicant alternatively proposes to change the arrow for reference #28 in figures 3 and 6 to point to the same general location on the firing element as in figures 2, 4, and 5. Conversely, if the above explanation sufficiently clarifies the issue, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

The Examiner objected to claims 141-160 as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. The Examiner specifically objected to the use of "blocking means," "connecting means," "pivot means," "stop means," and "blocking piece." The first four terms have been removed from all claims. "Blocking piece" appears to have proper antecedent basis.

The above claims are submitted to be patentable over the art of record for the following reasons.

Khoury and Lameiras Guede Do Not Show a Triggerbar Capable of Rotation Relative to the Trigger

The last O.A. rejected independent claims 141, 146, 153, and 158 on Khoury, Lameiras Guede, or both under Section 102(b). Claims 141, 146, 153, and 158 have been rewritten as new claims 161, 166, 173, and 178 to more clearly define patentably over these references. Applicant requests reconsideration of these rejections, as now applicable to claims 161, 166, 173, and 178 for the following reasons.

(1) Claims 161, 166, 173, and 178 recite a triggerbar capable of rotation relative to the trigger. Neither Khoury or Lameiras Guede show this structure as claimed. The triggerbar of Khoury is not capable of any rotation relative to the trigger. The "triggerbar" of Lameiras Guede is merely an extending arm of the trigger itself and therefore is also incapable of rotation relative to the trigger.

The Rejections of Dependent Claims On Khoury and Lameiras Guede Are Overcome

Dependent claims 142-143, 145, 147-151, 154-157, and 159 were rejected on Khoury, Lameiras Guede, or both under Section 102(b). Applicant requests reconsideration of these rejections, as now applicable to the renumbered claims for the following reasons.

(1) The independent claims upon which these claims are dependent have been rewritten

to more clearly define patentably over these references.

Khoury Does Not Show a Sear Catch on a Longitudinally Slidable Firing Element

The Examiner has cited arm 74 of Khoury as a sear catch. Arm 74 is clearly not a sear catch as it is not engaged by the sear in order to restrain the firing element. Even if arm 74 were a sear catch, it would be irrelevant for examination purposes as the claims are only concerned with the sear catch of a longitudinally slidable firing element. Arm 74 is clearly not attached to firing pin 18.

Applicant respectfully suggests that 28, 47, and 48 are the only reference numbers that could legitimately be called a sear catch in Khoury.

If the Examiner persists with this interpretation of Khoury, Applicant respectfully requests an explanation of Examiner's reasoning.

Reference 70 of Khoury is Not Slidable and is Not a Slidable Connecting Means

Lever 70 of Khoury has been cited by the Examiner as a slidable connecting means. Column 4, lines 25-26 of Khoury clearly show that reference 70 is a lever which rotates about the sear pin and is not slidable.

If the Examiner persists with this interpretation of Khoury, Applicant respectfully requests an explanation of Examiner's reasoning.

Reference 20 of Khoury is Not a Camming Stud

Sliding lock 20 of Khoury has been cited by the Examiner as both a camming stud and a blocking piece. This component is little more than a spring loaded plunger and is not subject to camming.

If the Examiner persists with this interpretation of Khoury, Applicant respectfully requests an explanation of Examiner's reasoning. Applicant specifically requests details of the camming action seen by the Examiner and what exactly constitutes the stud.

Reference 16 of Khoury is Not a Frame Window or Cam Track

Reference 16 is clearly listed as a breech-bolt, column 2 line 42, and therefore by definition is not part of the frame of a conventional semi-automatic pistol. How 16 could further be misinterpreted as a cam track is unknown to the Applicant.

If the Examiner persists with this interpretation of Khoury, Applicant respectfully requests an explanation of Examiner's reasoning. Applicant specifically requests evidence that 16 is part of the frame and further requests delineation of the cam track path.

Lameiras Guede Has Been Grossly Misinterpreted

Lameiras Guede is strictly concerned with blocking the motion of a trigger. This reference has absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with the blocking of a longitudinally slidable firing element and anticipates absolutely nothing whatsoever in any of the claims.

The supposed blocking means (1) cited by the Examiner is a rotatable plate with the sole function of blocking trigger 8. Trigger 8 is shown unblocked if fig 1 and blocked in fig 2. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO BLOCKING OF A LONGITUDINALLY SLIDABLE FIRING ELEMENT in this reference. The only thing blocked is the trigger.

The supposed slidable link (6) cited by the Examiner is actually an elongate arcuate opening, column 2 line 53. This is not a slidable link, THIS IS A HOLE. This curved slot cannot arguably be called a slidable link by anyone. It is not a link and it doesn't slide. It is nothing but a slot on a pivoting component.

The Examiner has arbitrarily labeled plate 1 as a sear in figure 3. In fact, the Examiner wishes to arbitrarily change want constitutes a sear in this reference depending upon which claim is being examined. A sear has the specific function of selectively restraining or releasing a firing element. Plate 1 does not meet this definition of a sear as plate 1 is solely capable of blocking a trigger and cannot release a firing element. This reference shows one sear and only one sear. Any other interpretation of the reference is an unsupportable contrivance.

If the Examiner persists with any of these three interpretations of Lameiras Guede, Applicant respectfully requests an explanation of Examiner's reasoning.

Non-Applied References Do Not Show The Invention

Applicant has reviewed the non-applied references. These references do not show the invention or render it obvious.

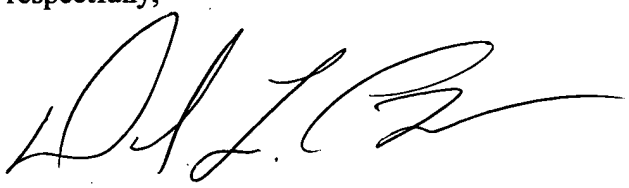
Conclusion

For all the above reasons, applicant submits that the specification and claims are now in proper form and that the claims all define patentably over the prior art. Therefore, applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Conditional Request for Constructive Assistance

If for any reason this application is not believed to be in full condition for allowance, applicant respectfully requests the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner pursuant to M.P.E.P. 706.03 (d) and 707.07 (j) in order that the undersigned can place this application in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

Very respectfully,



Applicant: Daniel L. Chapman

P.O. Box 710316
Santee, CA 92072-0316
(619 448-5510

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Date: 2003 July 18 Daniel L. Chapman, Applicant